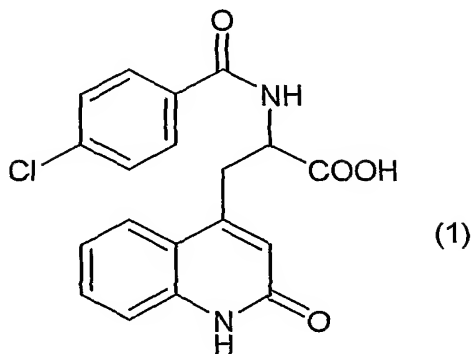


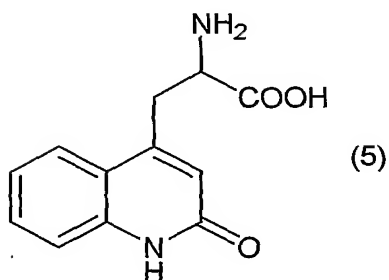
CLAIMS

1. An improved process for preparing rebamipide of the formula (1):



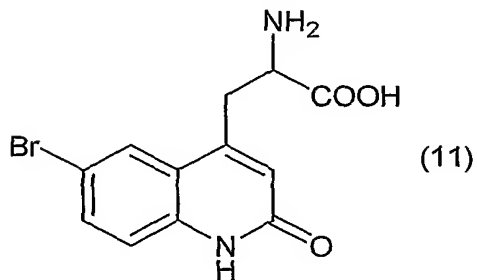
5 comprising:

subjecting a carbostyryl amino acid compound of the formula (5):



or a salt thereof

containing a 6-bromocarbostyryl amino acid compound of the formula (11):



as an impurity to a reduction treatment in the presence of hydrogen and a catalyst in a basic aqueous solution,

thereby selectively reducing the impurity compound (11) to transform into the carbostyryl amino acid compound (5); and then

5 reacting the carbostyryl amino acid compound (5) with 4-chlorobenzoyl chloride in a basic aqueous solution to give rebamipide (1).